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E/CN.14/787
E/CN.14/TPCW/II/3

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Sixteenth session of the Commission - Seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning/Development

Freetown (Sierra Leone), 6 - 11 April 1981

Second meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Freetown (Sierra Leone), 24 March - 2 April 1981

UNATROBI

THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN:

(Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 to 30 July 1980)

ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

UNITED NATIONS

Distr.: GENERAL

E/CN.14/737
E/CN.14/TPCW.II/3
16 December 1980
Original: **ENGLISH**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace was held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980, in response to General Assembly resolution 33/131 of 20 January 1979. The Conference was attended by representatives of 145 Member States, including 44 States of the African region: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, The Central African Republic, The Comoros, The Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, The Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, The Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, The United Republic of Cameroon, The United Republic of Tanzania, The Upper Volta, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2. The secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa was represented at the Conference. In addition, the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid were represented. The South West African People's Organization attended the Conference in an observer capacity, as did representatives of the following liberation movements: African National Congress (South Africa) and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

3. The African region had prepared for the World Conference by holding a regional preparatory meeting, the second Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development at Lusaka from 3-7 December 1979. The deliberations of the Second Regional Conference were submitted to the World Conference in the Conference working document, Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (A/CONF.94/17), of special relevance to items 8 and 9 of the World Conference agenda (Item 8: Review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: equality, development and peace; Item 9: Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women.

4. This paper reviews the contribution of the African region to the World Conference through the regional preparatory meeting and analyses the deliberations and conclusions of the World Conference in terms of their implications for the African region.

CHAPTER I

AFRICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING

5. The second Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development was held from 3 to 7 December 1979 at Mulungushi Hall, Lusaka. The main purpose of the Regional Conference was to review the progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving the minimum objectives of both the World Plan of Action and the African Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development and to draw up programmes and strategies for 1980-1985 in preparation for the World Conference.

6. The Regional Conference was held in accordance with a decision taken at the first Regional Conference, held at Nouakchott, Mauritania, in 1977, resolution 364(XIV) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its 5th meeting, held at Rabat in 1979; and General Assembly resolutions 33/189 of 29 January 1979, calling for the convening of regional meetings in preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; and 3520(XXX) of 15 December 1979 in which the General Assembly stressed the importance of the periodic review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the objectives of the World Plan of Action and international action aimed at implementing the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (1975).

Progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving the minimum objectives of the World and African Plans of Action

7. The Conference noted areas in which women of the region had made gains in the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women. They included progress made in the introduction of cooperatives, in the provision of training and improved simple technologies, and in the establishment of an increasing number of day-care centres. Many more girls were gaining access to education, but the numbers dropped off rapidly after primary school. Several Governments had made major efforts to eradicate female illiteracy and, in some countries, girls had begun to receive technical training on a par with boys. Health programmes for women had been strengthened in some countries.

8. Nearly all the countries of the region had established some kind of machinery to deal with the situation of women, as a direct response to the African and World Plans of Action. In addition, the progress of women in political participation was apparent. Several countries now organized seminars to raise women's political consciousness and established targets for posts to be filled by women.

9. Despite those gains, the majority of women were still confined to poorly remunerated work, frequently died at an early age, suffered numerous health problems and remained without access to the education that would lift them from that situation.

10. Obstacles to their full participation in development were also identified. The participants concluded that:

(a) There was no direct correlation between the contribution of women to economies of their countries and their status;

(b) Women are generally confined to traditional sectors of the economy where they had little access to the high or even low status jobs in the sectors that would expand through industrialization, and they were significantly less represented than men in all the non-traditional sectors;

(c) The illiteracy rate among women was still very high, along with the drop-out rate of girls from school;

(d) The health situation of women remained poor; and

(e) Despite changes in legislative and constitutional provisions which guaranted equality of women in various areas, the social status of women had undergone very little change.

11. In spite of those conclusions, indications were that progress was taking place but slowly. New strategies were needed to accelerate the pace. Apparently information had not reached women at all levels and the struggle for women's full participation in development had not yet involved the majority of women.

Programmes and strategies for the years 1980-85 with a view to promoting equality, development and peace in the African Region

12. A major concern of the preparatory meeting was the elaboration of a strategy for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women in order to accelerate the pace, which had been measured and found lagging, of the integration of women in development.

13. It was felt that the International Women's Year (1975) had promoted a regional and global awareness of the situation of women that could be further consolidated in the second half of the Decade. New development emphases, such as alternate development strategies, the Regional Food Plan for Africa, the Monrovia Declaration, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC)were all considered in drawing up specific recommendations for action in the context of a strategy for the second half of the Decade.

14. The preparatory meeting had adopted the document Programmes and strategies for 1980-85: equality, development and peace (E/CN.14/744/Add.1,) which contained the elements of an African regional strategy for hastening the integration of women in

development. In turn, those strategies were incorporated into the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (E.CN.14/78/Add.1), adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its 6th Meeting held at Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 April 1980.

15. The programmes and strategies, as adopted by the second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women and Development, spelled out specific areas for action during the period 1980-1985. They were: national machineries for the integration of women in development, with emphasis on strengthening their technical competence; education and training, including planning and policy implications, formal education, literacy, adult education and training for the formal and informal sectors; employment in business, commerce, industry and handicrafts, and training of women for their multiple roles; employment, both in urban and rural areas; communications and mass media, health, nutrition and family life, population, research, data collection and analysis, and legislative and administrative matters.

16. The deliberations and conclusions of the regional preparatory meeting, as well as the reports adopted concerning the progress made and obstacles to achieving the minimum objectives of the World and African Plans of Action and programmes and strategies for the years 1980-1985 were officially submitted to the secretariat of the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women as a part of the African region's input to the Conference.

CHAPTER II

THE COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE: ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AFRICA REGION

Summary of the General Debate

18. The general debate in plenary began with a key note address delivered by Ms. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of World Conference. She pointed out that the achievements of the last five years permitted no complacency. Although more women were employed, they were still confined to poorly paid, low-status and insecure jobs. Because there had been no redefinition of economic activity the contribution of women was still ignored in official statistics. In education and training, women lagged behind and parity with men had not been achieved, although there was an increase in female enrolment. The content of education continued to reinforce attitudes that prevented women from improving their situation. In many countries, the illiteracy rates of women remained much higher than those of men. Progress made in the field of health was not satisfactory.

19. The Copenhagen Conference was supplied with the most complete data ever assembled on the condition of women, which attested to the fact that since 1975 a great deal of work had been done. Over 130 speakers took the floor to detail what countries had achieved in terms of legislation, employment, family services for women and other areas. Many speakers considered the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a great achievement of the mid-Decade. Most speakers, however, made reference to the effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa, the effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women and the situation of women refugees the world over as being major issues of global concern where urgent action was necessary.

20. The conditions of rural women all over the world were of concern to many representatives. Rural women in developing countries were engaged in both food and cash crop production but did not own the means of production. They lived in isolation, neglected by the outside world. When the situation became unbearable they migrated to towns where harsh and difficult conditions awaited them.

21. The discussions left no doubt that, at least in developed countries women were becoming an increasingly large part of the labour force. However, the world economic situation, with the slackening of industrial and commercial activity, was having an adverse effect particularly on women, who tended to be in marginal economic sectors. Despite labour legislation, women did not always receive equal pay for equal work. The question of redistribution of jobs was also raised and it was felt that men should perhaps share more domestic duties.

Participation of the representatives of the United Nations system

22. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation of the United Nations delivered a keynote address in which he made these following points:

(a) The new international economic order implied that structural changes in the world economy must be accompanied by the effective mobilization of domestic resources. It was evident that in that process women, who constituted half of the population, must be fully involved.

(b) The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs would continue to provide a focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for implementing activities relating to women and development, particularly the programme for the second half of the Decade. It was the intention of the Secretary-General to ensure that all departments and units of the United Nations, and in particular the Centre, should rethink, reorient and strengthen those long-term programmes and strategies in order to reflect the requirements of the Copenhagen Conference. To enable the Centre carry out its functions more effectively, it was envisaged that a small liaison unit should be outposted from the Centre to United Nations Headquarters to assist the Centre in integrating the contributions of other substantive units at New York Headquarters for collective implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action.

23. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicated that 50 per cent of professionals recruited in 1979 had been women. Since 1975, UNDP had doubled the proportion of women in professional posts on its staff. He considered that certain terms, like the 'contribution', 'participation', 'involvement' and 'integration' of women in development were undesirable, for they were not used in relation to men. It was time to sharpen the language and intensify the struggle against the most pervasive of all forms of colonialism, for humanity was denying itself the benefit of the intelligence, experience, sensitivity and vision of half of its members in decision making, negotiation, planning and practical action.

CHAPTER III

FUNCTIONAL ORGANS OF THE COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

A. First Committee

24. The First Committee was assigned the following agenda items:

Item 7 (a) Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa: review of the situation;

Item 8 (a) Review and evaluation of progress made and obstacles encountered in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women at the national, regional and international levels;

Item 9 (a) Programme of Action for the Second half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

Item 10(a) Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women: review of the social and economic needs of Palestinian women.

25. In the discussions which ensued participants agreed that in both developing and developed countries new technologies had too often been introduced without sufficiently careful consideration of their full impact on women. As a result, women were sometimes displaced from their occupations. The introduction of such technologies should include built-in arrangements for training women in their use and for their full participation in the new employment opportunities which were thereby made available.

26. With respect to employment in developing countries, a large number of delegations noted that the great majority of women worked in the informal, unorganized sector. Employment in that sector needed to be covered by legislative and other measures in order to protect women workers, by ensuring improved working conditions, higher wages and increased economic returns.

27. There was unanimous agreement on the essential role that education played in the advancement of women and on the urgent need to promote female literacy, which still lagged behind, particularly in the developing countries. There was also a need to abolish differences in the over-all educational attainment rates of boys and girls.

28. A number of delegations referred to the important role of the media in accurately depicting women today and thereby helping to change the way women were viewed in society.

29. The need to change social attitudes was addressed by many delegations. Social, cultural, ideological and economic factors played a significant part in determining the status of women. Delegations agreed on the importance of comprehensive and integrated programmes for the advancement of women, especially in developing countries.

Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa: Review of the situation

30. Five major themes emerged from participants' statements on that issue. The first was the condemnation of apartheid and the affirmation of solidarity with the liberation struggle in general and southern African women in particular. The second was the identification of the specific nature of oppression suffered by black southern African women as a result of apartheid. The third was recognition of the contribution of the liberation movements to the struggle. The fourth was condemnation of the international links with and support of the Republic of South Africa, the fifth and last was the need for a new approach in international assistance.

31. It was proposed that a new approach was necessary with respect to the provision of international assistance for the education and training of black southern Africans, especially black women. For such education and training to be of relevance to the needs and reality of southern Africa, it would have to be provided in developing rather than developed countries. In that regard, international assistance needed to be directed at those developing countries which had demonstrated their willingness and ability to provide such education and training.

32. It was important to ensure that women as well as men benefited from the assistance given by United Nations bodies in support of the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa. In the past, that had seldom been the case.

B. Second Committee

33. The Second Committee was assigned the following agenda items:

Item 7(b) Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa: special measures for assistance to women in southern Africa.

Item 8(b) Review and evaluation of regional and global programmes of the United Nations system of organizations aimed at promoting the objectives of the Decade.

Item 9(b) Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1981-1985 designed to implement the World Plan of Action: regional and international targets and strategies, taking into account the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education".

Item 9(c) The situation of women refugees the world over.

Item 10(b) Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories. Special measures for assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories.

Special measures for assistance to women in southern Africa

34. Assistance agreed upon during the discussions fell under the following categories: legal, humanitarian and political assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia and in refugee camps; training and assistance to women participating in the liberation movements; training and assistance to women to enable them to play roles

in all areas in the reconstruction of their countries after liberation; and international support for and co-operation with the southern African women's struggle. The proposal that all assistance would be channelled through the liberation movements recognized by O.A.U. was not acceptable to some delegations and had to be voted upon before adoption. Reconstruction aid to women of Zimbabwe would go directly to the Government of Zimbabwe. Several representatives felt that assistance should also be given to the front-line States which had sacrificed so much in aiding the people of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Review and evaluation of regional and global programmes of the United Nations system aimed at the objective of the Decade.

35. The Committee had before it for consideration the paper prepared by the secretariat from the information provided by United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies and recommendations relating to women and development emerging from conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations or specialized agencies. The reports of the five regional preparatory meetings were also considered.

36. Many representatives recognized the close relationship among the three themes of the Conference: equality, development and peace. They emphasized that if the status of women was to be significantly improved far-reaching changes would have to be made at the national and international levels, in areas such as employment, education and health. The Second United Nations Development Decade had failed to achieve major economic changes, because of both national and international factors. Those representatives considered it impossible to talk of equality for women so long as the international situation remained unchanged.

37. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the activities undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. However, a large number of representatives, concerned about the lack of co-ordination between the agencies and the United Nations, which often led to duplication and waste of resources, called for a strengthening of that co-ordination and increased financial resources for that purpose. Note was taken of the joint interagency programmes which had been adopted in the hope that they would contribute to the elimination of duplication and the promotion of a more efficient system of dealing with projects relating to women. Some representatives, however, expressed disappointment with the delay in the implementation of the programme. A few representatives stated that co-ordination was also necessary between the United Nations and organizations outside the United Nations system, including non-governmental organizations, as well as better co-ordination between the United Nations and its member States and among the countries themselves. Some delegations opposed proposals for establishing new international bodies for co-ordination. They argued that in the first place the existing organs of the United Nations system should be properly utilized for co-ordination purposes.

38. It was emphasized that the situation of women within the United Nations system would have to be improved as an example to other institutions. It was noted that progress had been slow and women had been recruited primarily for junior-level posts, and not at the decision-making level. Those representatives suggested that Governments should identify a greater number of qualified women for such positions. Several representatives spoke in favour of positive discrimination in favour of women.

39. The role that the regional commissions were playing was recognized as important in the formulation of an international strategy for development, because the needs of women tended to vary in societies having different social and economic systems. Many representatives stressed that regional strategies should be given additional resources to implement decisions as part of any restructuring of the United Nations.

40. There was considerable discussion about the merits of special development programmes for women in contrast to the integration of women into programmes. Some representatives supported projects which were specifically directed to and organized for women rather than modifying existing programmes or adding a women's component to them. Others noted that in some countries special programmes for women had become a method of keeping women out of the mainstream of activities. It was, however, generally agreed that, no matter which method was used the ultimate goal was that women should participate in development and not be recipients of welfare.

41. Many representatives expressed great interest in the activities of the specialized agencies dealing with women. They appealed to the agencies and United Nations bodies concerned to review and increase wherever possible the number and scope of projects intended to benefit women especially in the rural areas. They suggested that the agencies should move away from funding training seminars and research programmes and considered that a review of the method of operation of programmes should be undertaken. Raising the standard of living of rural women should become a priority issue for the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Furthermore the role that rural women played in food production should be recognized.

42. A number of participants felt that inadequate information could lead to social attitudes even among women themselves, that hampered the improvement of the status of women. Although data had been gathered and problems identified during the first half of the Decade for Women, the United Nations as well as individual countries should reinforce the collection of information and research work on women. Greater financial resources were needed for women's programmes to provide an effective base for action and to improve the analysis of existing data.

Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: regional and international targets and strategies taking into account the subthemes: employment, health and education.

43. One of the major considerations in discussing the Programme of Action at the international level was the role of the new international economic order. That issue was senstive for the United States, which had voted against the relevant resolutions in the General Assembly and thus found it impossible to support the "language" in the programme being discussed at Copenhagen. To developing nations, however, the inclusion of the new international economic order was the most important carryover from Mexico City and the starting point for any discussions on the integration of women in development. It meant that women were to play a role in restructuring the world economic order with a view to attaining a more equitable distribution of resources. That approach was clearly stated in paragraph 154 of the draft Programme of Action, discussion of which was the work of the Second Committee

"The perpetuation of global economic inequalities and economic dependence which are the product of an economic system that is unfair and incompatible with the development of countries, slows down the process of development of all nations particularly of the developing countries, and inhibits the full utilization of the material and human potentials of those countries, including women".

44. The developing countries as well as the Nordic countries were also quite insistent that disarmament should be part of the Programme of Action. While such political concerns might seem tangential to the situation of women, it was the consensus of the ECA delegation that their inclusion reflected the maturity of the women's question in the political arena. No longer were women regarded as a subject apart, they had become an integral concern in the world political struggles that were generally the subject of General Assembly debates.

45. The Programme of Action was laudable for its consideration of the roles of women and the need for strengthening the resources of the regional commissions' programmes for women.

46. On the general topic of the integration of women in development, the question was not support for the idea that it should be done, but rather emphasis on how it was to be done. The Programme of Action spoke of the need to develop relevant methodologies for women's integration, particularly on the part of the United Nations in strengthening and assisting government efforts in that regard. Developing countries were encouraged to use locally available expertise as much as possible in developing projects, thus strengthening TCDC and enhancing the possibilities of African women making a full contribution.

47. Another item of interest to the African region was the request for projects for women in the area of renewable source of energy, an area in which ECA/ATRCW was already providing some leadership.

48. There was also further discussion of the roles of men and women. Rather than making noble statements about reducing the heavy workloads of women, particularly in the developing countries the programme spoke of a fair division of labour between men and women, since for women s burden to decrease, either men or technology had to take up the load. In that regard the need for attitudinal changes on the part of men was emphasized.

49. Attention was given to increasing the number of women, particularly those from developing countries in posts at decision-making levels within the United Nations system.

50. In considering the programme, the Second Committee also examined the need for increased research efforts. It was felt that the regional commissions, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and INSTRAW, should prepare and make available compendia of statistics on women, containing the most recent data, time-trend analyses where available as well as international measures designed to improve the situation of women. That was an area where ECA could well concentrate its efforts

in the second half of the decade. In that connexion and of particular interest to ECA in the light of its project proposal on econometric projections of the situation of women in Africa in the year 2000, the Committee noted that the regional commissions inter alia should encourage statistical operations and practices that were free from sex-based stereotypes and appropriate research methodology that would have relevance to the participation of women in development and equality between the sexes. That was the first recognition in official language that statistical operations could be prone to sex-based stereotypes, and that action to prevent such a bias was necessary. Recognizing the importance of the dissemination of information, the Committee inserted a new passage in the draft programmes calling for bibliographies of studies and other United Nations materials on women and development to be produced and widely distributed to Member States and appropriate private research organizations to facilitate access to such information. That was another area for ECA follow-up.

51. In addition to the resolutions on the situation of women in the United Nations, the Second Committee also drafted several other resolutions of interest to the African region which were subsequently adopted in plenary. They took particular note of the special needs of women in rural areas, particularly those working in agriculture. Attention was called to the needs of women in relation to the intensification of drought control in the Sahel.

Special measures for assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories.

52. In the lengthy discussions, the major point of contention was how assistance to Palestinian women should be channelled, hinging on the question of recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which was represented at the Conference by a strong observer delegation. After a vote in the Second Committee, the PLO was recognized as the channel for assistance as the representative of the Palestinian people. Most of the Western countries expressed their reservations on that paragraph.

C. Committee of the whole

53. The work of the Committee was very important because it elaborated the ideological base for the Programme of Action. In the course of its work the Committee drafted the texts that were to constitute Part One: Background and framework of the Programme of Action.

54. Much of the work of the Committee was very controversial. Roll-call votes were taken on, what came to constitute paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Programme of Action.

55. Paragraph 2 of the Programme of Action stated:

> "In 1979, International Women's Year, a World Conference was held in Mexico City which adopted the World Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1976-1985, and the Declaration on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace. The principles and objectives proclaimed at the Mexico City Conference for the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace are still

relevant today and constitute the basis of action for the Decade. They were further reaffirmed by a number of United Nations regional, sector and international meetings as well as by the social and economic recommendations of the Conference of Non-Aligned and Developing Countries on The Role of Women in Development held in Baghdad in May 1979, which were endorsed by the sixth summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries".

56. The Conference adopted this text by a roll-call of 80 votes to 7, with 23 abstentions. Most African States voted for adoption of the paragraph. No African States voted against the paragraph, although the Upper Volta abstained.

57. The countries that voted against the paragraph noted that, while the World Plan of Action in Mexico City in 1975 had been adopted by consensus, the Declaration of Mexico had not. They voted against the paragraph because of the reference to the Baghdad Conference, for they could not subscribe to recommendations of a conference at which they had not been represented.

58. Paragraph 5 of the Programme of Action stated:

> " Without peace and stability there can be no development. Peace is thus a prerequisite to development. Moreover peace will not be lasting without development and the elimination of inequalities and discrimination at all levels. Equality of participation in the development of friendly relations and cooperation among States will contribute to the strengthening of peace, to the development of women themselves and to equality of rights at all levels and in all spheres of life, as well as to the struggle to eliminate imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, racial discrimination, apartheid, hegemonism, and foreign occupation, domination and oppression as well as full respect for the dignity of the peoples and their right to self-determination and independence without foreign interference or intervention and to promote guarantees of fundamental freedoms and human rights".

For many delegations that constituted the most controversial aspects of the Conference.

59. One African delegation expressed the opinion that the text did not involve any issue of substance and hence that its adoption and the adoption of the remaining paragraphs of the draft Programme of Action required only a simple majority. By 59 votes to 37, with 13 abstentions, that view prevailed. The paragraph was then voted upon as a whole. It was adopted by 69 votes to 21, with 25 abstentions. Most African Member States voted for the adoption of the paragraph as a whole; none voted against. Those abstaining were Gabon, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Lesotho, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zaire.

CHAPTER IV

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

60. In the last plenary session of the Conference, participants adopted the programme of Action by a roll-call vote. The vote was 94 in favour, four against and 22 abstentions. All African States present and voting voted in favour of the Programme.

Programme of Action, part one

61. The background and framework of the Programme of Action has been discussed above with reference to the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole. Some additional aspects relating to historical perspective and conceptual framework of the programme are described below.

62. In referring to the background of the Programme of Action, the document stated that "the inequality of women in most countries stems to a very large extent from mass poverty and general backwardness of the majority of the world's population caused by underdevelopment which is a product of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and also of unjust international economic relations. The unfavourable status of women is aggravated in many countries, developed and underdeveloped, by de facto discrimination on the grounds of sex; which in a group of countries is called sexism.".

63. In elaborating the conceptual framework of the Programme, the Conference underlined the need to include new data and strategies concerning the participation of women in development in the Third United Nations Development Decade. The conceptual framework was to be seen in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The goals of that strategy and the new international economic order could not be achieved unless the inequality between men and women was eliminated.

Programme of Action, part two

64. Part two of the Programme of Action outlined actions to be taken at the national level in the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women. It defined national targets and strategies for the full participation of women in economic and social development. Those strategies encompassed national plans and development policies, national machinery and legislative measures, as well as the participation of women in the political and other decision-making process, measures relating to education and the dissemination of information, improvement of the data base and the role of non-governmental organizations.

65. National targets were also described in connexion with the subthemes of the World Conference: employment, health, education and training

66. The Programme of Action at the national level made reference to a number of priority areas requiring special attention, which were particularly noteworthy because of their relevance to the African region. The priority areas demarcated were food, rural women, child care, migrant women, unemployed women, women who were solely responsible for their families and young women.

Programme of Action: part three

67. Part three of the Programme of Action was concerned with activity at the international and regional levels. It set international targets and defined strategies, as well as internal policies and programmes. It dealt with technical co-operation, training and advisory services, the elaboration and review of international standards, research, data collection and analysis, the dissemination of information and experience and review and appraisal. It also discussed regional policies and programmes.

68. With regard to technical co-operation, training and advisory services, two areas of particular interest to the African region, assistance to women in southern Africa, and assistance to women refugees and displaced women the world over were discussed.

69. On the matter of assistance to women in southern Africa, it was noted that assistance provided would be channelled through the southern African liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity. Among the objectives of such assistance would be strengthening women's sections where they already existed in the national liberation movements and the establishment of such sections where they did not yet exist.

70. The Conference discussed many problems of women refugees with particular reference to the African region. It was noted that because the overwhelming proportion of refugees were women, who generally suffered more radical changes in role and status than male refugees, the United Nations and other international organizations should address themselves specifically to the problems and vulnerabilities of women.

Regional policies and programmes

71. The Conference made specific reference to the various regions with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, designed to accelerate the realization of the World and African Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

(a) It noted that the international policies and programmes outlined in the Programme of Action had clear application at the regional level and should also be regarded as regional priorities. In addition, the regional commissions, in co-operation with the regional offices of the specialized agencies, had specific responsibilities to provide assistance to Governments and non-governmental organizations for developing policies, strategies and programmes for the second half of the Decade in the light of the review and appraisal of progress achieved in the first half.

(b) It was also stressed that the strengthening of appropriate regional action programmes for women should be based on the development of co-operation among the countries of the region with the aim of promoting the principle of self-reliance.

72. To those ends, the regional commissions were asked to adopt the following measures:

(a) Integration of the recommendations of the Programme of Action into the work programmes of their respective sectoral units;

(b) Promotion of fellowship and other special training programmes, particularly in the tertiary sectors, so that women could improve and/or gain occupational and socio-economic status;

(c) Strengthening of their information and data collection systems with a view to providing a better analysis of data on the situation and work of women;

(d) Intensification of their activities in promoting adequate national social infrastructure allowing women and men to discharge their dual roles in the family and in society;

(e) Preparation of skilled womenpower inventories at the national, subregional and regional levels so that trained women could be given equal opportunity in job recruitment.

73. The Conference urged the regional commissions to make the necessary institutional arrangements for (a) Strengthening the offices of the regional commissions by recruiting women for posts at the decision-making level. Such posts should include those of programme officer provided for in the regular budget and not only from extrabudgetary sources and responsible for implementing the programmes for the second half of the Decade. The regional commissions should establish posts at a high level to co-ordinate and implement policies and programmes relating specifically to the status of women and (b) Reinforcement of the regional centres for research and training.

CHAPTER V

RESOLUTIONS

74. The Conference adopted 48 resolutions, covering many aspects of the situation of women, including family planning, racial discrimination and nutritional self-sufficiency. The text of all the resolutions appears in the Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.94/35). Some with specific relevance to the African region are discussed below.

75. With respect to migrant women, specific actions for all States concerned were recommended in resolution 3. On the intensification of drought control in the Sahel, the Conference in resolution 9 requested the United Nations and its specialized agencies to intensify their efforts to combat desertification and drought control in the Sahel, in view of the particular suffering of women and their families in this area. On the situation of women refugees and displaced women the world over, all States were urged, in resolution 12, to recognize their responsibilities as concerned sharing the burden of refugee assistance whether in providing first asylum, permanent resettlement or financial support. On the same issue resolution 13 condemned foreign aggression, racism, oppression, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and the use of inhumane weapons and methods of war and called for a cessation of their use and for efforts to ensure that women and children were not the target of indiscriminate hostilities.

76. Resolution 16 on the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa urged that the Conference should be held as soon as possible with a view to having economic and other sanctions against South Africa applied universally and further urged that the Conference, when convened, should pay particular attention to the grave situation of women and children in South Africa.

77. Resolution 21 called for the strengthening of women's programmes and the appointment of women in the secretariats of the regional commissions and agencies of the United Nations. The text of the resolution is contained in annex I. Resolution 24 was also concerned with the situation of women in the United Nations Secretariat.

78. In resolution 28, on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, all States were called upon to sign and ratify the Convention if they had not already done so.

79. Resolution 29 was concerned with the situation of women living in conditions of extreme poverty and urged all States Members of the United Nations to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women every five years a detailed report on major socio-economic policies and programmes concerning the status of women, with particular emphasis on the progress made with regard to the poorest women.

80. Resolution 30 on the promotion of equality in education and training called on Governments to intensify their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and introduce programmes giving technical training to women.

81. Resolution 31, entitled "Women and discrimination based on race", called upon all Member States to give special consideration to the elimination of discrimination based on race as well as on sex in development programmes. Resolution 32 condemned South African aggression against Angola.

82. Resolution 34 called for special assistance to Sahrawi women, in particular the initiation of assistance programmes for Sahrawi women and their children in education, training and health in order to alleviate the difficult living conditions of Sahrawi women refugees.

83. Resolution 39 called for the establishment and strengthening of machinery for the integration of women in development, noting that appropriate machinery should be established wherever it did not yet exist and that financial, technical and human resources should be provided to that end by international organizations and government agencies.

84. Resolution 41 recognized the foremost role of women in the attainment of nutritional self-sufficiency at the family, community and national levels, and invited Governments to review their national food situations and draw up programmes to increase women's agricultural productivity.

85. With regard to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, resolution 42 recommended that the activities developed by the Fund should continue beyond the United Nations Decade for Women and appealed urgently to the regional commissions to make policy-level posts available to the women's programmes from the United Nations regular budget.

86. Resolution 43 on the exploitation of the prostitution of others and traffic in persons invited Governments to take appropriate measures to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and to recognize that women and children were not a commodity and had the right to legal protection against abduction, rape and prostitution.

87. On women in agriculture and rural areas, resolution 44 urged Governments and United Nations organizations to give special attention to the needs and priorities of rural women as determined by rural women themselves and requested Governments to ensure that their programmes met the needs of rural women, particularly with regard to water and energy supplies and further to give priority to research and action programmes for landless rural women and their families.

88. Resolution 45 on apartheid and women in South Africa and Namibia paid tribute to the sacrifices of women and children in South Africa and Namibia and called upon the women of the world to urge their Governments to sever all links with the apartheid regimes. (The full text of resolution 45 appears as annex II).

Follow-up to the conference

89. At the twenty-first plenary meeting on 30 July 1980 the Conference adopted the draft report as a whole and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report, in conformity with United Nations practices, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

ANNEX I

Resolution 21

Strengthening the women's programme and appointment of women in the secretariats of the regional commissions and agencies of the United Nations

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality Development and Peace

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, which emphasized the importance of regular review and appraisals of the progress made in meeting the goals of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year,

Recalling also the Declaration by the General Assembly of the years 1976-1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3524(XXX) of 15 December 1975, which recommends that all organs of the United Nations system as well as the specialized agencies should give sustained attention to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes,

Taking account of the efforts made by the regional commissions to promote programmes and aware of the scope of the programmes undertaken and the limitations imposed on the regional commissions by the lack of sufficient funds and staff,

1. Urges the General Assembly to provide from the regular budget of the United Nations increased financial resources for programmes and personnel, including senior women programme officers currently supported by the Voluntary Fund, necessary for the effective implementation of the Programmes of Action and resolutions as adopted by the Copenhagen Conference.

2. Requests the Secretary-General as an interim measure to explore the possibility of redeploying vacant posts within the Regional Commissions to the women's programmes should resources not be readily available to permit the establishment of the required new posts.

3. Also urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to appoint more women to regular posts in their organizations, in particular in policy and decision-making positions at the regional level including the United Nations regional commissions and the regional offices of UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, FAO and UNICEF in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/143 of 23 December 1978, which requested that the necessary measures should be taken to increase the number of women in regular posts throughout the United Nations system.

ANNEX II

Resolution 48

Apartheid and women in South Africa and Namibia

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

Noting with regret that since 1975 the status of women under the apartheid regimes of South Africa and Namibia has deteriorated,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid,

Recalling the resolutions adopted and proposals made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975,

Recalling also resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in particular resolution 3411 C (XXX) of 28 November 1975 by which the Assembly proclaimed that the United Nations and the international community have a special responsibility towards the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/183 placing the effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa and Namibia on the agenda of the World Conference,

Noting that attempts being made by women throughout the world to implement programmes set out under the United Nations Decade for Women did not satisfactorily attend to problems faced by women under the oppressive racist regimes of South Africa and Namibia,

Further noting that the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development for the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, did not satisfactorily attend to problems faced by women under the oppressive racist regimes of South Africa and Namibia,

Also noting that the peoples of Southern Africa and the world are facing the threat of world instability and war because of the rapid militarization of South Africa and the arms race while the avowed principle of the Decade is peace,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on "The Effects of Apartheid on the Status of Women in South Africa and Namibia" (A/CONF.94/7), "The Role of Women in the Struggle for Liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa" (A/CONF.94/5) and "Measures of Assistance to Women in southern Africa" (A/CONF.94/6) and the Declarations and recommendations of the Hemispheric Seminar on Women under Apartheid (Montreal) and the International Seminar on Women and Apartheid (Helsinki),

Reaffirming that, unless the peoples in South Africa and Namibia are liberated and are also able to participate in the global struggle for peace, equality and development, the over-all strategy objectives of the Decade for Women cannot be fully realized,

Considering that the observance of the United Nations Decade for Women must lead to an acceleration of concerted action by the women of the world for the complete eradication of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia through the assumption of power by the people,

Reaffirming that apartheid would have long been destroyed were it not for the economic and military assistance granted by the major Western countries to the regime of South Africa,

Again reaffirming that the States which give assistance to the racist regime of South Africa become accomplices in the inhuman practices of racial discrimination, massacres, detentions and death of thousands of women and children in these countries,

Further affirming its full solidarity with the women of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle for liberation under the leadership of their national liberation movements,

Noting with appreciation the sacrifices of the Frontline States of Africa in their support of the liberation struggles in South Africa and Namibia,

1. Rejects as inhuman and intolerable all policies designed to perpetuate apartheid, racial segregation or other policies based on theories that racial groups are or may be inherently superior or inferior;

2. Strongly condemns the imprisonment, torture and killings of school-children demonstrating for equality in education in Southe Africa as an outrage to the conscience of the world;

3. Pays tribute to the great sacrifices of the women and children in South Africa and Namibia in the struggle for the inalienable rights and their national liberation;

4. Calls upon the women of the world to pressurize their Governments:

(a) To sever all links - political, economic, diplomatic and military - with the apartheid regimes;

(b) To disseminate information on the effects of apartheid as widely as possible.

5. Urges the United Nations Security Council to enhance and intensify world-wide support for an effective oil embargo and comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa;

6. Welcomes with gratitude the contribution by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to a legal defence fund for women suffering under the system of apartheid and colonial domination;

7. Condemns the vicious acts of aggression of the Pretoria regime against the frontline States of Africa, and the killings of refugees, including women and children;

8. Urges all organizations of the United Nations system, governments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, women's and anti-apartheid groups, non-governmental organizations and other groups to give the highest priority to the questions of measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

9. Endorses the comprehensive programme for measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia as contained in document A/CONF.94/6;

10. Also endorses the Declaration and Recommendations of Helsinki and Montreal International Seminars on Women and Apartheid and commends them for the urgent attention of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

11. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia;

12. Urges all trade unions to refrain from handling any merchandise, weaponry and any goods of economic value going to South Africa and Namibia;

13. Appeals to all Governments and organizations to support the various projects of the national liberation movements, and front-line States, especially those designated for women and children. More assistance should be channelled through the South African and Namibian liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

14. Urges all concerned United Nations organizations to strengthen the existing voluntary fund to be used for the legal defence of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia and assistance to their families,

15. Commends the Special Committee against Apartheid for giving special attention to the plight of women and children under apartheid,

16. Recommends the full utilization and strengthening of existing machinery to monitor, co-ordinate and follow-up on the fullest implementation of the measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women adopted in Copenhagen; and

17. Appeals to all States Member of the United Nations which have not yet done so to ratify the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.